FY 2009 Capital Budget TPS Report 49376

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Hoonah

Project Title:

Hoonah - Cruise Ship Mooring Buoy System

State Funding Requested: \$ 1,400,000 House District: 5 - C

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

CRUISE SHIP FUNDING SOURCE PROJECT - Project would install a mooring buoy system so cruise ships can dock directly in Hoonah.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$1,400,000

<u>Funding Secured</u> <u>Other Pending Requests</u> <u>Anticipated Future Need</u>

Amount FY Amount FY Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

THIS IS A CRUISE SHIP FUNDING SOURCE PROJECT.

The City of Hoonah is a port of call community and sees large numbers of cruise ship passengers each year. Hoonah is new to the tourism industry and is in need of several upgrades in order to make it more attractive and comfortable for the cruise ship passengers. The current infrastructure cannot adequately meet the needs of the cruise ship passengers and puts a strain on the community. Hoonah has developed a Visitor Capital Improvement Plan and is in the process of implementing this plan.

The mooring system requested would better serve the cruise ships that call on Hoonah by allowing for a secure place to tie up. This would eliminate any need for passengers to be lightered in on zodiacs which is not optimal and not as safe as disembarking on a solid dock. In fact, some passengers are so apprehensive about being lightered into port that they refuse to leave the ship in these communities. This impacts their overall cruise experience and also impact the port of call who will see less passengers because of this. The City of Hoonah would like to be able to make the necessary upgrades to their dock facility so that cruise ships can pull up directly to their dock.

Project Timeline:

Funding would be secured in July of 2008 with bids going out in the fall and construction to begin in the spring of 2009.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City of Hoonah

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

Contact Name: Kaci Schroeder Hotch Contact Number: 465-3306 FY 2009 Capital Budget TPS Report 49376

Grant Recipient Contact Information:								
Contact Name: Dennis Gray, Mayor								
Phone Number: 907-945-363								
Address: P.O. Box 360, Hoonah, AK 99829								
Email: dgrayjr@cityofhoonah.org								

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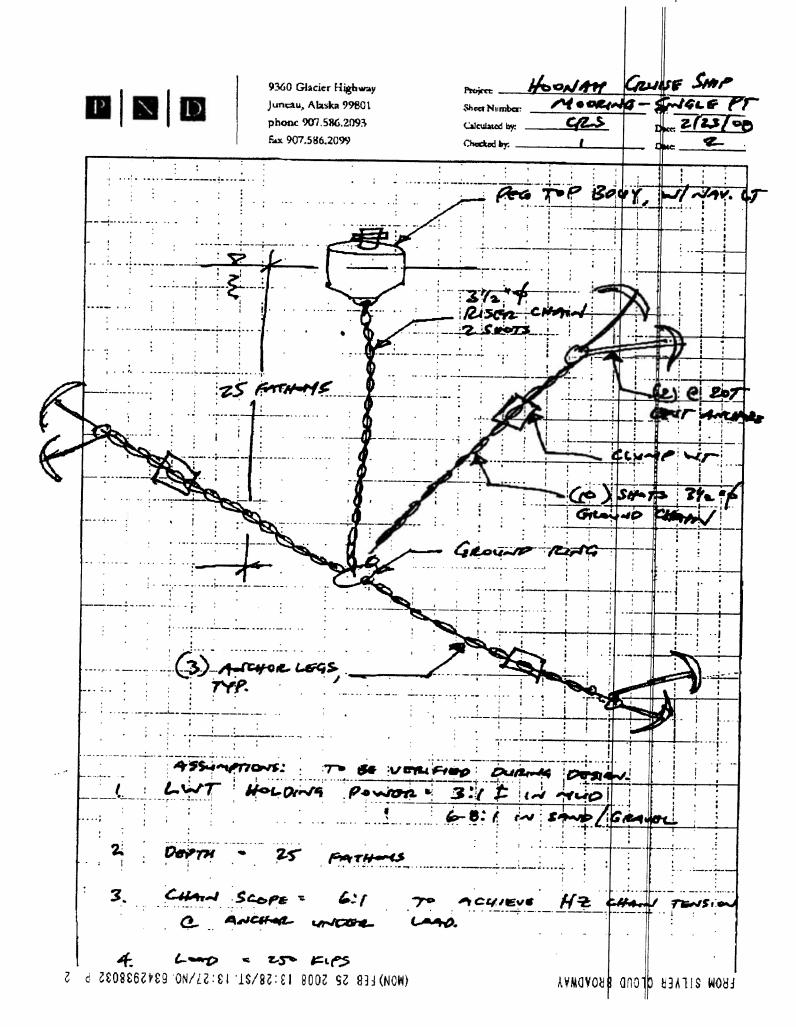
Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? X Yes No

Contact Name: Kaci Schroeder Hotch Contact Number: 465-3306

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

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February 26, 2008

Representative Bill Thomas State Capitol Bldg., Rm. 434 Juneau, AK, 99801-1182

Dear Representative Thomas,

This letter is in support of the Commercial Passenger Vessel Excise Tax project funding for the current year. The City of Hoonah is in the early stages of a developing Tourism industry. With the increased growth in our visitor industry we are in dire need for infrastructure improvements in Hoonah to support that industry. The recent passage of the Commercial Vessel Excise Tax by initiative has given rise to the possibility of a new funding stream that is directed for the visitor industry. Due to the newness of the revenue potential for Visitor Capital Improvements Projects, we as a City were unclear on how to approach the legislature for the project development revenue.

While we are clear on directed local Capital Improvement Projects funding parameters we were unclear if we could petition the legislature to access funding for projects that impact the visitor industry in Hoonah. We have developed a list of projects that will be prioritized by the Council in the next regular meeting in March. The list is a new one designed for Commercial Vessel Excise Tax funding. While we do not have official rankings as of yet, we will complete that prioritization of these projects at our regular posted meeting in the second week of March.

The City of Hoonah has identified six different projects that are direct improvements for the Visitor industry and will benefit our year round residents as well. The following is the list of projects yet to be prioritized by the Hoonah City Council; Public Restrooms at Keidladee Park, Public Restrooms and showers at our City Float, Paving and associated improvements to the City walking Path from Icy Strait Point to State of Alaska sidewalk,

Ship Mooring Buoy System for Cruise Ships, Harbor Replacement work and Cultural Museum and Visitor Center. While this entire list does require more funding then your office has indicated is available we felt it important to establish a baseline of need from which we could build our requests on in the future if this funding stream continues to be available to Communities that are Ports of call to the Cruise industry.

Thanking you in advance for the opportunity to submit these projects for consideration through the Commercial Passenger Vessel Excise Tax program.

Respectfully,

151 Dennis H. Gray, Ir.

Dennis H. Gray, Jr. Mayor